



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **75 CRIMINAL ALIENS AND STATUS VIOLATORS DEPORTED BY ICE ATLANTA LAST WEEK**

ATLANTA— A 34-year-old Pakistani national convicted of sexual battery and attempted aggravated sodomy on a minor is among the 75 foreign nationals removed last week by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) in Atlanta. Cobb County Sheriff's office arrested and charged the Pakistani national, Mohammed Saeed, in Sept. 2003. On Oct. 8, 2004, Saeed was sentenced to a one-year prison term.

Also removed was 36-year-old Morales Castro, a Mexican citizen previously arrested and charged Aug. 1999 with first degree kidnapping and robbery with a dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to a six-year prison term for his conviction.

"ICE is ensuring that aliens who have no legal right to stay in the United States are removed as quickly as possible," said Field Office Director John Mata, of ICE's Office of Detention and Removal Atlanta. "Immigration violations degrade the very system that millions of legal immigrants choose to follow each year, and we know that criminal and terrorist organizations have exploited vulnerabilities in that system. With each removal, we are making our communities and our country more secure." Mata oversees the program for a three-state area including Georgia, North and South Carolina.

The foreign nationals removed last week are from the countries of Mexico, Honduras, Jamaica, Pakistan and Gambia.

DRO efforts nationwide promote public safety and national security by ensuring all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed from the United States as expeditiously as possible. Last year, ICE removed a record-setting 160,000 aliens; approximately 53 percent were criminal aliens.

In Atlanta, through its targeted enforcement efforts, ICE has arrested more than 486 criminal aliens since the beginning of fiscal year 2005, which began on Oct 1. For the 2004 fiscal year, ICE removed 3,363 aliens from the Atlanta area; 2,083 were criminal aliens.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*